

Calabi–Yau threefolds with a curve of singularities and counterexamples to the Torelli problem

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ABSTRACT

Birational Calabi–Yau threefolds in the same deformation family provide a ‘weak’ counterexample to the global Torelli problem, as long as they are not isomorphic. In this paper, it is shown that deformations of certain desingularized weighted projective hypersurfaces provide examples of families containing birational varieties. The constructed examples are shown to be non-isomorphic using a specialization argument.

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Introduction

The theory of Calabi–Yau threefolds has received a lot of attention in recent years, due to its relation to various fields ranging from birational geometry to superstring theory. One of the important problems in the theory is the

Torelli Question: *Let Y_1, Y_2 be smooth, deformation equivalent Calabi–Yau threefolds over \mathbb{C} . Assume that there is an isomorphism*

$$(H^3(Y_1), Q_{Y_1}) \cong (H^3(Y_2), Q_{Y_2})$$

respecting the Hodge structures polarized by the intersection forms. Are Y_1 and Y_2 isomorphic?

The answer to this question remained elusive for a long time even in the simplest case, for general quintic hypersurfaces in \mathbb{P}^4 . However, weak global Torelli in this case has recently been proved by Voisin [19]. It is possible that the answer is positive for simply connected Calabi–Yau threefolds with Picard number one.

In this paper, I give some examples of families of threefolds where the answer to the above question is negative. They are in a sense ‘weak’ examples. They arise from a theorem of Kollár, which claims that there is an isomorphism of polarized Hodge structures as above if Y_1, Y_2 are birational Calabi–Yau threefolds. In Section 1, I exhibit birational threefolds which are at the same time deformation equivalent^a, based on an idea of [4] and [10]. The varieties arise as deformations of resolutions Y of Calabi–Yau threefolds with a curve of singularities. The birational isomorphisms give an interesting involution on the base of the Kuranishi space of the resolutions Y .

In order to obtain a counterexample to Torelli, one has to prove that the constructed smooth threefolds are not isomorphic. I will introduce three families of explicit examples in Section 2 that exhibit three different sorts of behaviour. The difference lies in the generic automorphism group and the action of this group on the Kuranishi space. In particular, Proposition 2.4 shows that in one family the presence of an involution destroys the counterexample. The main result

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^aFor this phenomenon to occur, the Picard number must be greater than one, as in the Picard number one case the smooth projective birational model is unique.

of the paper is Theorem 4.4, which gives explicit cases where (weak) global Torelli fails. In particular, a question posed in [3, 1.6] is answered. The proof is based on a specialization argument and a standard result on automorphisms in families.

The construction shows that one can find threefolds with the same Hodge structure in an arbitrary small disc neighbourhood of the central fibre in the Kuranishi space of Y . This however does not contradict Infinitesimal Torelli: as explained in Remark 4.5, the period point of Y in the period domain is fixed by an element of the arithmetic monodromy group.

Desingularizations of Horrocks–Mumford quintics give another example of birational, deformation equivalent Calabi–Yau threefolds [2], the Picard number being four in that case. Indeed, it is reasonable to expect that as the Picard number increases, Torelli can fail more and more badly, although under a weak condition there will always be finitely many isomorphism classes with the same Hodge structure within a deformation family by the main result of [15].

The examples suggest the

Modified Torelli Question: *Let Y_1, Y_2 be smooth, deformation equivalent Calabi–Yau threefolds over \mathbb{C} , with isomorphic polarized Hodge structures. Are Y_1 and Y_2 birationally equivalent?*

The example of Aspinwall–Morrison [1], featuring non-simply connected threefolds, may provide a counterexample to this more general question, but some details of that example remain to be worked out^b.

My final remark is that the theory of holomorphic symplectic varieties shows somewhat parallel features. On one hand, there is an example of birational, non-isomorphic varieties [6]. On the other hand, the polarized Hodge structures (on second cohomology) of birational varieties are isomorphic, and the natural way to pose the Torelli problem is exactly the same as above [9]. However, similarities end here, [9, 4.6] shows that two birational holomorphic symplectic manifolds can always be realized as central fibres in families over the disc, the families being isomorphic over the punctured disc. This phenomenon is special to the holomorphic symplectic case.

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Notation and definitions

A *Calabi–Yau threefold* is a normal projective threefold Y with canonical Gorenstein singularities, satisfying $K_Y \sim 0$ and $H^1(Y, \mathcal{O}_Y) = 0$. The *nef cone* of Y is the closed cone generated by ample classes in $\text{Pic}(Y) \otimes \mathbb{R} \cong H^2(Y, \mathbb{R})$.

The *weighted projective space* $\mathbb{P}^m[w_0, \dots, w_m]$ is the quotient of $\mathbb{C}^{n+1} \setminus \{0\}$ by the \mathbb{C}^* -action having the given weights. A *weighted hypersurface* $X = X_d \subset \mathbb{P}^m[w_0, \dots, w_m]$ is defined by the vanishing of a homogeneous polynomial f of weighted degree d .

If Y is a variety, by a slight abuse of notation I write $T_0 \text{Def}(Y)$ for the linear space classifying first order deformations of Y . This space is isomorphic to $H^1(Y, \Theta_Y)$. If $f : Y \rightarrow X$ is a

^bA detailed analysis of the example will be given in [16].

morphism of algebraic varieties, a *deformation of f over S* is a commutative diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
Y & & \longrightarrow & & \mathcal{Y} \\
& \searrow f & & \swarrow & \\
\downarrow & & X \longrightarrow \mathcal{X} & & \downarrow g \\
& \swarrow & & \searrow h & \\
0 & & \hookrightarrow & & S
\end{array}$$

where g, h are flat and $Y = g^{-1}(0)$, $X = h^{-1}(0)$. There is a vector space $T_0 \text{Def}(Y, f, X)$ classifying the first order deformations, defined by Ran [14] as a complicated Ext group over a Grothendieck topology. There are natural maps

$$T_0 \text{Def}(X) \leftarrow T_0 \text{Def}(Y, f, X) \rightarrow T_0 \text{Def}(Y)$$

to the first order deformation spaces of X and Y .

Finally, $H^n(X)$ denotes the integral cohomology of X modulo torsion.

1 The general framework

The counterexamples to the Torelli problem presented in this paper will be based on the following result:

Theorem 1.1 (Kollár [11, 4.12-13].) *Assume that Y_1, Y_2 are smooth Calabi–Yau threefolds, related by a flop $\psi : Y_1 \dashrightarrow Y_2$. Then ψ induces an isomorphism of polarized Hodge structures*

$$(H^3(Y_1), Q_{Y_1}) \cong (H^3(Y_2), Q_{Y_2}).$$

As a first step, I introduce a class of Calabi–Yau threefolds having birational varieties in their deformation space.

Construction 1.2 Let Y be a smooth Calabi–Yau threefold containing a surface E ruled over a curve C of genus $g \geq 2$, necessarily smooth by [20], [21], which can be contracted inside Y by a log-extremal contraction given by the divisor $H \in \text{Pic}(Y)$:

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
\varphi_{|mH|} : & Y & \rightarrow X \\
& \cup & \cup \\
& E & \rightarrow C.
\end{array}$$

For the rest of the paper, let $\pi : \mathcal{Y} \rightarrow S$ be the Kuranishi family of Y . By Unobstructedness [17], [18] its base S is smooth. Fix once and for all an identification between S and an open disc in $T_0 \text{Def}(Y)$; this defines a notion of (partial) addition and scalar multiplication on S . There is an obvious one-to-one correspondence between vectors $v \in S$ and maps from the unit disc $f_v : \Delta \rightarrow S$, given by $f_v(z) = zv$. The map f_v gives a pullback family $\pi_v : \mathcal{Y}_v \rightarrow \Delta$ with smooth Calabi–Yau fibres.

Let

$$S_E = \text{Im}(T_0 \text{Def}(E, k, Y) \rightarrow T_0 \text{Def}(Y)) \cap S,$$

this is a linear subspace of S , corresponding to the deformation directions along which E deforms together with the deformation. Wilson [20] shows that if E is smooth, $S_E \subset S$ is of codimension g .

Let $\pi_v : \mathcal{Y}_v \rightarrow \Delta$ be a general one-parameter deformation for v not contained in S_E . Assume that the nef cone is invariant in the family. (This will be proved for all the discussed examples in Lemma 2.7.) The following is well-known:

Proposition 1.3 *There exists a unique relative Cartier divisor \mathcal{H} on \mathcal{Y}_v extending H on Y . There is a morphism $\varphi_{|m\mathcal{H}|} : \mathcal{Y}_v \rightarrow \mathcal{X}_v$ over Δ , which is the contraction of E in the central fibre and the contraction of a finite number of rational curves $\cup_i C_t^i$ on the general fibre Y_t , the number of such curves being $2g - 2$ if counted with appropriate multiplicities. The map $\mathcal{X}_v \rightarrow \Delta$ is flat.*

PROOF As $h^2(\mathcal{O}_Y) = 0$, the divisor H extends uniquely over the family, and by assumption \mathcal{H}_t is a nef and big divisor on all fibres Y_t . So $\pi_{v*}(m\mathcal{H})$ is a vector bundle over Δ and $|m\mathcal{H}|$ defines a morphism. The exceptional locus over $t \in \Delta^*$ is a finite union of rational curves by [20], their expected number (Gromov-Witten invariant) is calculated in [22, 2.3]. The last statement follows from [13, 11.4]. \square

Proposition 1.4 (cf. [22, 2.3].) *There exists a flop of $\mathcal{Y}_v \rightarrow \Delta$, i.e. a diagram*

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathcal{Y}_v & \xrightarrow{\psi} & \mathcal{Y}_v^+ \\ & \searrow \quad \swarrow & \\ & \mathcal{X}_v & \end{array}$$

over Δ , where the birational map ψ_t flops the curves C_t^i on Y_t for $t \in \Delta^$ and gives an isomorphism on the fibre over 0.*

PROOF \mathcal{X}_v has only cDV singularities, so the existence of the flop can be seen by taking hyperplane sections and using [13, 11.10]. \mathcal{Y}_v^+ is smooth, so the birational map $\mathcal{Y}_v \dashrightarrow \mathcal{Y}_v^+$ is an isomorphism in codimension 1, which shows that ψ_0 is an isomorphism. \square

The family $\mathcal{Y}_v^+ \rightarrow \Delta$ has central fibre Y , so corresponds to some vector $\alpha(v) \in H^1(Y, T_Y)$. Shrinking S if necessary and defining α as the identity on S_E , one obtains a map $\alpha : S \rightarrow S$ which is clearly an involution. The following is a tautology:

Proposition 1.5 *The map α is linear in the obvious sense. Its fixed locus is exactly S_E .*

PROOF Let $v_1, v_2 \in S \setminus S_E$ such that $v = v_1 + v_2 \in S$ also, then the maps f_{v_i} together with the linear structure on S give a map $\Delta^2 \rightarrow S$. The map f_v coincides with the composite map $\Delta \rightarrow \Delta^2 \rightarrow S$ where the first map is the diagonal one. The flop can just as well be constructed over Δ^2 which shows linearity immediately. The obvious modification of this argument works also if some $v_i \in S_E$.

Now suppose v is not in S_E but it is fixed by α . By universality of the Kuranishi family, this means that the birational map ψ is the identity on all fibres. This is clearly nonsense. \square

2 Particular families

In this Section, I will briefly investigate the geometry of three families which fit into the framework described above. The singular variety X will be a general hypersurface $X_8 \subset \mathbb{P}^4[1^2, 2^3]$, $X_{12} \subset \mathbb{P}^4[1^2, 2^2, 6]$ or $X_{14} \subset \mathbb{P}^4[1, 2^3, 7]$, respectively. X has Picard number one, canonical singularities along curves and by adjunction, trivial canonical sheaf.

2.1 First assume that $X = X_8 \subset \mathbb{P}^4[1^2, 2^3]$, a variety discussed at length from the point of view of mirror symmetry in [4], deformations of which also featured in [3, 1.6]. X is singular along the locus $C = \{x_i = 0\}$, a plane curve of genus 3.

The linear system $\mathcal{O}(2)$ embeds $\mathbb{P}^4[1^2, 2^3]$ as a quadric $Q_3 = \{z_1 z_3 = z_2^2\}$ of rank 3 in \mathbb{P}^5 , where z_i are the coordinates on the \mathbb{P}^5 . The hypersurface X becomes a complete intersection of Q_3 with a quartic F_4 in \mathbb{P}^5 . The singularities of the quadric Q_3 can be resolved by the map $F(2, 0, 0, 0) \rightarrow Q_3$, where $F(2, 0, 0, 0)$ is a rational scroll. $F(2, 0, 0, 0)$ generically deforms to the scroll $F(1, 1, 0, 0)$. The contraction $\varphi : F(1, 1, 0, 0) \rightarrow Q_4 \subset \mathbb{P}^5$ maps the scroll to a quadric $Q_4 = \{z_1 z_3 = z_2^2 - t z_4^2\}$ of rank 4. Intersections of Q_4 with F_4 give deformations X_t of X , with four isolated cA_1 points at $\{z_1 = \dots = z_4 = 0\}$. The resolution $Y_t \rightarrow X_t$ replaces these points by the rational curves C_t^i . The following diagram summarizes the state of affairs:

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} F(1, 1, 0, 0) & \supset & Y_t & \rightsquigarrow & Y & \subset & F(2, 0, 0, 0) \\ & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ \mathbb{P}^5 & \supset & Q_4 & \supset & X_t & \rightsquigarrow & X \subset \mathbb{P}^4[1^2, 2^3] \cong Q_3 \subset \mathbb{P}^5 \end{array}$$

$F(1, 1, 0, 0)$ is a quotient of $(\mathbb{C}^2 \setminus \{0\}) \times (\mathbb{C}^4 \setminus \{0\})$ by the group $(\mathbb{C}^*)^2$, where the two multiplicative actions have weights $(1, 1; -1, -1, 0, 0)$ and $(0, 0; 1, 1, 1, 1)$ respectively. If t_i, u_i denote the coordinates on the affine spaces, then the map φ is given by

$$\varphi : (t_1, t_2; u_1, \dots, u_4) \mapsto (u_1 t_1 : \frac{1}{2}(u_1 t_2 + u_2 t_1) : u_2 t_2 : \frac{1}{2\sqrt{t}}(u_1 t_2 - u_2 t_1) : u_3 : u_4),$$

having the quadric Q_4 as its image. There is however an ambiguity in the choice of the sign of the square root. This does not matter in \mathbb{P}^5 , as the two choices are isomorphic under the map $\sigma : \mathbb{P}^5 \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^5$, $z_4 \mapsto -z_4$, $z_1 \leftrightarrow z_3$. However, taking the intersection with the quartic F_4 , the two choices give different resolutions as long as σ is not an automorphism of F_4 . This gives the two resolutions related by a flop.

Note that if σ is an automorphism of F_4 , then it gives an automorphism $j \in \text{Aut}(Y)$ and the map α acting on the base of the Kuranishi space S of Y equals j^* . For such special points in the moduli space, the families $\mathcal{Y}_v, \mathcal{Y}_{\alpha(v)}$ are isomorphic.

2.2 Next consider the other two families $X_{12} \subset \mathbb{P}^4[1^2, 2^2, 6]$ and $X_{14} \subset \mathbb{P}^4[1, 2^3, 7]$. These varieties are singular along the curves given by the vanishing of the variables of odd degrees, of genus 2, 15 respectively.

Notice that these varieties always have nontrivial automorphisms. If z denotes the variable of highest degree and x_i, y_i the other variables, then changing variables $X = \{z^2 + f_d(x_i, y_i) = 0\}$ and then $z \mapsto -z$ gives an involution i . The automorphism i of X extends to an involution j on the resolution Y . j induces a natural linear action j^* on the space $T_0 \text{Def}(Y)$; denote its fixed locus by $T_0^+ \text{Def}(Y)$. This is the subspace of $T_0 \text{Def}(Y)$ corresponding to deformation directions along which the involution j also deforms. Notice that by universality of the Kuranishi family, the families $\mathcal{Y}_v \rightarrow \Delta, \mathcal{Y}_{j^*(v)} \rightarrow \Delta$ are isomorphic under an isomorphism induced by j . The following is again a tautology:

Proposition 2.3 *The actions of α, j^* on S commute.*

PROOF The following diagram obviously commutes:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathcal{Y}_v & \xrightarrow{\psi} & \mathcal{Y}_v^+ \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ \mathcal{Y}_{j^*(v)} & \xrightarrow{\psi} & \mathcal{Y}_{j^*(v)}^+ \end{array}$$

Thus $\mathcal{Y}_{j^*\alpha(v)} = \mathcal{Y}_{j^*(v)}^+ = \mathcal{Y}_{\alpha j^*(v)}$. □

In the two cases, the involution j^* behaves very differently:

Proposition 2.4 *If Y is the resolution of $X_{12} \subset \mathbb{P}^4[1^2, 2^2, 6]$, then j^* is trivial. If Y is the resolution of $X_{14} \subset \mathbb{P}^4[1, 2^3, 7]$, then $j^* = \alpha$ as maps acting on the base of the Kuranishi space of Y .*

PROOF Let $X = X_{12} \subset \mathbb{P}^4[1^2, 2^2, 6]$, a double cover $X \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^3[1^2, 2^2] \cong Q_3 \subset \mathbb{P}^4$ of a quadric of rank 3 in \mathbb{P}^4 , branched over a sextic. The quadric is resolved by the scroll $F(2, 0, 0) \rightarrow Q_3$, and Y is a branched double cover of this scroll. The variety Y appears in a paper of Fujita [8], where it is denoted by $\Sigma^3(2, 0, 0)_{3,0}^+$. By [8, 7.13], the action of j^* on S is trivial. This proves the first statement.

Now let $X = X_{14} \subset \mathbb{P}^4[1, 2^3, 7]$. The fixed locus of the involution $i : z \rightarrow (-z)$ is in this case reducible; the quotient is $X/\langle i \rangle \cong \mathbb{P}^3[1, 2^3] \cong \mathbb{P}^3$. The image of the curve C is $\{t_1 = 0\} \cap \{g_7(t_1, \dots, t_4) = 0\} = \gamma$. The involution extends to the resolution Y as an involution j . The quotient upstairs is $Y/\langle j \rangle \cong W = B_\gamma \mathbb{P}^3$, the blowup of \mathbb{P}^3 along the curve γ . One obtains a diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} E & \longrightarrow & E' \\ k \downarrow & & \downarrow l \\ Y & \longrightarrow & W = B_\gamma \mathbb{P}^3 \\ f \downarrow & & \downarrow \pi \\ X & \longrightarrow & \mathbb{P}^3 \\ \cup & & \cup \\ C & \longrightarrow & \gamma. \end{array}$$

Let Θ_W be the tangent bundle of W , N_{γ/\mathbb{P}^3} the normal bundle of γ in its ambient space. Standard arguments show

Lemma 2.5 *The natural map $H^0(\gamma, N_{\gamma/\mathbb{P}^3}) \rightarrow H^1(W, \Theta_W)$ is surjective, i.e. any (first-order) deformation of W comes from a deformation of γ in \mathbb{P}^3 .*

□

Lemma 2.6 *There is an inclusion*

$$T_0^+ \text{Def}(Y) \subset \text{Im}(T_0 \text{Def}(E, k, Y) \rightarrow T_0 \text{Def}(Y)).$$

PROOF Consider

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} T_0 \text{Def}(E, k, Y) & \xleftarrow{\lambda} & F & \longrightarrow & T_0 \text{Def}(E', l, W) \\ \nu \downarrow & & \beta \downarrow & & \downarrow \delta \\ T_0 \text{Def}(Y) & \xleftarrow{\psi} & T_0^+ \text{Def}(Y) & \xrightarrow{\mu} & T_0 \text{Def}(W). \end{array}$$

Here μ, δ, ν are the obvious maps and ψ is the inclusion. Let F be the fibre product; its elements are pairs of vectors giving a first-order deformation $\mathcal{Y} \rightarrow B = \text{Spec } \mathbb{C}[\epsilon]/(\epsilon^2)$ of Y with an involution J on \mathcal{Y} , and a first-order deformation $(W, \mathcal{E}') \rightarrow B$ of the inclusion $l : E' \rightarrow W$, with compatible image in $T_0 \text{Def}(W)$. In other words, elements of F give a diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & \mathcal{E}' & \\ & \downarrow & \\ \mathcal{Y} & \xrightarrow{q} & \mathcal{Y}/\langle J \rangle = W \\ & \searrow & \downarrow \\ & & B \end{array}$$

where q is the quotient map and all maps over B are flat. q is finite, so $\mathcal{E} = q^{-1}(\mathcal{E}')$ is a relative Cartier divisor on Y , flat over B , hence one obtains a deformation $\mathcal{E} \rightarrow \mathcal{Y}$ of $E \rightarrow Y$. This defines the map λ in the previous diagram. By construction, the left square becomes commutative.

Lemma 2.5 shows that δ is surjective, so β must also be surjective. Then the commutativity of the left square shows that the image of the inclusion ψ must be contained in the image of ν . This proves Lemma 2.6. \square

To complete the proof of Proposition 2.4, notice that $j^* = \alpha$ would follow from the equality of fixed loci, as the two maps are commuting involutions, linear with respect to the partial linear structure on S . The fixed locus of α is S_E , whereas the fixed locus of j^* is by definition $T_0^+ \text{Def}(Y) \cap S$. By the previous Lemma, $S_E \supset T_0^+ \text{Def}(Y) \cap S$ and it suffices to show that the dimensions here are equal. The dimension of S_E is $h^{2,1}(Y) - g(C) = 107$. On the other hand, by a standard dimension count, the hypersurface $X_{14} \subset \mathbb{P}^4[1, 2^3, 7]$ depends on 107 parameters. Resolutions of such hypersurfaces are always double covers, so $\dim T_0^+ \text{Def}(Y) \geq 107$. This concludes the proof. \square

Thus in the last case, the varieties $Y_t, Y_{\alpha(t)}$ are isomorphic for all t . For the rest of the paper, restrict attention to the first two families. The last statement in this Section describes the nef cone of Y in these cases; this description will be needed below.

Proposition 2.7 *The nef cone of the resolution Y is generated by the flopping face and the face corresponding to a fibration with base \mathbb{P}^1 . It is constant on any deformation of Y .*

PROOF The first statement is clear from the above discussion; the map to \mathbb{P}^1 comes from the structural map of the rational scrolls. As for the second part, by the main result of [20], the nef cone is invariant on all deformations if no deformation of Y contains a surface which is (quasi-) ruled over an elliptic curve. A sufficient condition for this is that there is no class $F \in H^2(Y, \mathbb{Q})$ satisfying $F^3 = c_2(Y) \cdot F = 0$. $H, E \in H^2(Y, \mathbb{Q})$ are not linearly dependent, so they give a \mathbb{Q} -basis of the rank-two space $H^2(Y, \mathbb{Q})$ and the existence of the class F is equivalent to $((c_2(Y) \cdot H)E - (c_2(Y) \cdot E)H)^3 = 0$. A routine calculation shows that this fails in both cases. \square

Remark 2.8 The families investigated in this Section belong to a larger set of examples that can be found using a systematic search based on the theory of graded rings of weighted complete intersection varieties. For details, consult [16].

3 The automorphism group of the general variety

Proposition 3.1 *The general $X_8 \subset \mathbb{P}^4[1^2, 2^3]$ has trivial automorphism group, whereas the general $X_{12} \subset \mathbb{P}^4[1^2, 2^2, 6]$ has automorphism group $\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$.*

PROOF Assume that σ is a nontrivial element of the automorphism group of the hypersurface $X = \{F_8(\vec{x}, \vec{y}) = 0\} \subset \mathbb{P}^4[1^2, 2^3]$,

$$F_8(\vec{x}, \vec{y}) = f_8(\vec{x}) + g_1(\vec{y})f_6(\vec{x}) + g_2(\vec{y})f_4(\vec{x}) + g_3(\vec{y})(x_1^2 + x_2^2) + g_4(\vec{y}),$$

where $\vec{x} = (x_j), \vec{y} = (y_j)$ are the homogeneous coordinates of degrees 1, 2 respectively. The Picard group of X is of rank one, which implies that σ comes from a projective automorphism

of $\mathbb{P}^4[1^2, 2^3]$. Hence by [5, 4.7],

$$\begin{aligned}\sigma(\vec{x}) &= A\vec{x}, \\ \sigma(\vec{y}) &= B\vec{y} + C(S^2\vec{x}),\end{aligned}$$

where A is a 2×2 matrix, B, C are 3×3 matrices and $S^2\vec{x}$ is a shorthand for $(x_1^2, x_1x_2, x_2^2)^t$.

The singular locus of X is the genus three plane curve $\{g_4 = 0\} \subset \mathbb{P}^2$. This has to be mapped isomorphically by σ , so if g_4 is general, then after fixing an overall constant, $B = I$. Writing out the conditions for the invariance of the cubic y_i terms, one obtains $C = 0$ for general choice of F . Finally, the automorphism has to fix the octic $f_8(\vec{x}) = 0$, so for general f_8 , the only possibility is $A = \delta I$ and then clearly $\delta = \pm 1$. Thus up to constant, $A = \pm I, B = I, C = 0$, where the final sign is part of the \mathbb{C}^* -action in the definition of weighted projective space.

The proof for a general $X_{12} \subset \mathbb{P}^4[1^2, 2^2, 6]$ is completely analogous, so it is omitted. \square

4 The conclusion

I will need the following rather standard result:

Proposition 4.1 *Let $\mathcal{X} \rightarrow B$ be a family of Calabi–Yau threefolds with canonical singularities over a complex space B , having a simultaneous resolution $\mathcal{Y} \rightarrow \mathcal{X}$ over B . Let \mathcal{L} be a relatively ample relative Cartier divisor on \mathcal{X} . Let $\text{Aut}_B(\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{L})$ be the scheme of relative automorphisms in the family. Then $\text{Aut}_B(\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{L})$ is finite and unramified over B .*

PROOF $\text{Aut}_B(\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{L})$ is unramified over B , as the fibres of the family $\mathcal{X} \rightarrow B$ are varieties without infinitesimal automorphisms. Quasi-finiteness is clear, and properness follows from the valuative criterion (see e.g. [7, Lemma 4.2]). \square

Proposition 4.2 *Let X be a general member of one of the two families, Y the Calabi–Yau resolution. Let $v \in S \setminus S_E$ be a deformation direction as in Section 1, and $\mathcal{Y} \rightarrow \Delta$ the corresponding family with flop $\mathcal{Y}^+ \rightarrow \Delta$. Assume that for all $t \in U$ in a dense set $U \subset \Delta^*$, there exists an isomorphism $Y_t \cong Y_t^+$. Then the variety X has nontrivial automorphism group, respectively automorphism group larger than $\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$.*

Lemma 4.3 *Assume that for some $t \in \Delta^*$, there exists an isomorphism $Y_t \cong Y_t^+$. Then $\text{Aut}(X_t)$ is nontrivial, respectively larger than $\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$.*

PROOF Assume that $Y_t \cong Y_t^+$, then the flop corresponds to a nontrivial birational automorphism $\psi \in \text{Birat}(Y_t)$, not the identity on the complement of the exceptional locus (and not the involution j). So it descends to a nontrivial birational automorphism $\bar{\psi} \in \text{Birat}(X_t)$. On the other hand, using the fact that any isomorphism $Y_t \cong Y_t^+$ must identify faces of the nef cones of the same type, it is easy to check that $\bar{\psi}$ must fix a suitable multiple of the ample generator of the Picard group of X_t . Hence $\bar{\psi}$ is biregular by [12, 2.1.6]. \square

PROOF OF PROPOSITION 4.2 Let $\mathcal{X} \rightarrow \Delta$ be the contracted family, \mathcal{N} a relatively ample sheaf on \mathcal{X} . If there exists an isomorphism $Y_t \cong Y_t^+$ for all $t \in U$, there is a nontrivial element in $\text{Aut}_U(\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{N})$ for all $t \in U$. The statement now follows from Proposition 4.1. \square

Let \mathcal{D} denote the period domain parameterizing polarized Hodge structures on the \mathbb{Z} -module $H^3(Y)$. Let

$$\Gamma = \text{Aut}(H^3(Y), Q_Y)$$

be the corresponding arithmetic monodromy group. The following is the main result of the paper:

Theorem 4.4 *Let Y be a resolution of a general $X_8 \subset \mathbb{P}^4[1^2, 2^3]$ or $X_{12} \subset \mathbb{P}^4[1^2, 2^2, 6]$. Then (weak) global Torelli fails for Y : the period map is finite of degree at least two from the deformation space of Y modulo isomorphisms onto its image in \mathcal{D}/Γ , the period domain modulo monodromy.*

PROOF Finiteness of the period map follows from [15, 4.3], keeping in mind Lemma 2.7 above. The rest follows from Theorem 1.1, Proposition 3.1 and Proposition 4.2. \square

Remark 4.5 Fixing a marking of the cohomology of Y and using the Gauss-Manin connection in the bundle $R^3\pi_*\mathbb{C}$ over the base of the Kuranishi space S , one obtains the (local) period map $\varphi : S \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$. By the Infinitesimal Torelli theorem, φ is an embedding. However, this does not contradict the above result: the period map is not invariant under the involution α acting on S , it is only equivariant with respect to an element $\gamma \in \Gamma$ fixing the period point of the central fibre Y . To conclude the paper, I give a geometric description of γ .

There is a split exact sequence of Hodge structures

$$0 \rightarrow H^3(X) \rightarrow H^3(Y) \rightarrow H^1(C)[-1] \rightarrow 0$$

where the first map is pullback, whereas the second is the dual of the cylinder homomorphism given by the family $E \rightarrow C$ of rational curves in Y . Note that the Hodge structure on $H^3(X)$ is pure, as X has only quotient singularities.

Proposition 4.6 *The element $\gamma \in \Gamma$ is the involution of the Hodge structure $H^3(Y)$ that fixes $H^3(X)$ and reflects the sub-Hodge structure $H^1(C)[-1]$ generated by the family $E \rightarrow C$ of rational curves.*

PROOF By construction, the image of $H^3(X)$ is fixed by the involution γ . On the other hand, it is clear that γ induces the same action as α on the space $H^{2,1}(Y) \cong H^1(Y, T_Y)$, the latter isomorphism being well-defined up to a constant. Thus the corank of the submodule fixed by γ is at least $2g$ by Lemma 1.5. Hence the fixed submodule is exactly $H^3(X)$ and this concludes the proof. \square

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